

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12226 291734Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 291727Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1776

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12226

EXDIS

HELSINKI FOR- ASST SEC HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, US, EG

SUBJECT: CREDIT TO EGYPT

REF: BONN 10940

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH FINANCE MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY POEHL LAST WEEK, AMBASSADOR ASKED POEHL ABOUT STATUS OF GERMAN CONSIDERATION OF CREDIT FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. IN RESPONSE POEHL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED OF ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION AT THE MOMENT. POEHL DID, HOWEVER, GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO DESCRIBE THE DIFFICULTIES THE FRG WOULD HAVE IN FINANCING ASSISTANCE. THE ONLY POSSIBILITY HE COULD SEE WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL GRANT OF CAPITAL ASSISTANCE TO THE EGYPTIANS IN ADDITION TO THE 500 MILLION DM ACCORDED LAST YEAR FOR THE 1974/6 PERIOD. HE MENTIONED IN THAT CONNECTION THAT EGYPT WAS ALREADY SECOND (AFTER INDIA) RECIPIENT OF GERMAN CAPITAL ASSISTANCE. POEHL SAID THAT HE WAS ALSO UNAWARE OF WHAT FRG WOULD BE DOING WITH OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THIS SUBJECT.

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2. THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL MINISTER HAD ALREADY

RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HISS, SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISER IN THE CHANCELLERY
ON JULY 17. HISS ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS COMPLETELY
UNINFORMED AS TO WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE
GOVERNMENT.

3. DURING CONVERSATION ON JULY 29 WITH HERMES,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
MINISTER WAS AGAIN TOLD THAT HERMES KNEW NOTHING ABOUT
CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

4. COMMENT: IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT THE
CHANCELLOR IS HANDLING THIS MATTER VERY CLOSE TO
HIS CHEST AND EVEN SENIOR OFFICIALS MAY BE RETICENT
ABOUT DISCUSSING THE MATTER. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION,
HOWEVER, THAT THE QUESTION MAY NOT BE RECEIVING
URGENT CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE FRG. IF AN OCCASION
PRESENTS ITSELF ON THE MARGIN OF THE HELSINKI SUMMIT,
AN EXPRESSION OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN A MAXIMUM
FRG EFFORT IN MAKING AVAILABLE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT
MIGHT BE HELPFUL.
HILLENBRAND

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NNN

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